

diameter in the range from 0.5 mm to 2 mm said method including successively:

- a) - a step of selecting an active substance and a thermoplastic material, including at least one polymer excipient and at least one plasticiser,
- b) - a step of forming a mixture of the active substance and the thermoplastic material,
- c) - a step of introducing the said mixture after maturing into the kneading area of an extruding machine,
- d) - a step of extruding the said mixture, inside the extruding machine comprising a kneading area, without solvent at a controlled temperature to produce at least one extruded filament or extrudate and
- e) - a step of chopping the extruded filament into particles.

DI the improvement consisting in providing between steps b) and c) a step of maintaining the mixture of the active substance and of the thermoplastic material at a temperature and for a time respectively selected in the range from 20 to 70C° and in the range from 30 minutes to 150 hours causing thus the maturing of the mixture, whereby it becomes possible to store the said mixture for up to 7 days before extruding it, the active principale release curve being stabilized and presenting a kinetics slower than that obtained with particles of same composition extruded immediately after making up the mixture with no maturing step, due to which the particles obtained by the method including the maturing step of introducing into the organism an increased quantity of active substance for the same or even reduced volume and at an equivalent rate without increasing the volume of a tablet incorporating said particles.

REMARKS

New claim 9 was drafted to better distinguish over the reference cited as prior art by the Examiner. Claim 8 is still in this patent application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

After having recalled the reasons for which former claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 96/14058 to Oshlack et al., the